Villages trapped between LoC and barbed wiring

†2065. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several villages are trapped between Line of Control and barbed wiring due to barbed wiring on the Line of Control on the border with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of such villages and the number of persons affected from this;

(c) the distance in kilometres between the Line of Control and barbed fencing; and

(d) the land in kilometres between Line of Control and barbed wire?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Approximately 74 villages lie between the Line of Control (LoC) and the fence. However, none of these villages is trapped as a number of gates have been provided in the fence to facilitate the movement of villagers.

(c) The fence has been constructed at a distance of one to eight Kilometres from the LoC based on technical considerations.

(d) The area of the land lying between the LoC and the fence is approximately 1550 Square kilometres.

Army personnel killed in J & K

2066. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel of different ranks killed in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and upto 20th December, 2004, yearwise;

(b) whether there is a fresh spurt in the violence in the Jammu and Kashmir by terrorists;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a fresh strategy to counter terrorism in the Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.